

A grayscale photograph of a hand holding a computer mouse, serving as a background for the title. The hand is positioned as if about to click the mouse button.

Ode to ISIIS

the Inspection Service Integrated Information System

The mission: a new ISDBIS, the Inspection Service Database Information System, with the ability to do what no ISDBIS had ever done before. The strategy: to develop a strategy.

As any Postal Inspection Service employee knows, ISDBIS was a sprawling, inflexible, and hard-to-handle system, comprising a complex cluster of programs and subsystems. Mega work-years went into its creation and more went into ensuring that every new business rule for every aspect of case management was incorporated. ISDBIS was a reliable workhorse.

But with changes in technology escalating at about the speed of Hurricane Katrina, ISDBIS was no longer state of the art. Information options for Postal Inspectors, analysts, and everyone else in the agency with “a need to know” were expanding, and the now-archaic database system with the nearly unpronounceable name had lost its relevance.

Chief Postal Inspector Lee Heath knew he had to bring his agency into the 21st Century. The only way the Inspection Service could successfully accomplish its

goals—without a big investment in “people power” and other resources—would be to build new technology that could boost productivity.

ISDBIS was cumbersome and expensive to maintain, and a replacement was overdue. Yet obstacles loomed for Information Technology Division (ITD) staff. Year 2000 issues demanded major overhauls to bring Inspection Service systems in compliance. Then came 9-11, followed by several bouts of anthrax, and ricin trailed close behind. Throughout it all, ITD employees stayed on target with day-to-day system development and enhancement requests.

Enter the U.S. Postal Service’s IT office with bad news: IT vendor charges were surging, cost cuts were the order of the day, and job loads for postal data centers needed to be better distributed.

Much of the Postal Service’s operating system and scheduling software that ran ISDBIS was on the chopping block. When the agency announced that ISDBIS would be moved to another data center, ITD knew it was time for a change.

Unless they revamped ISDBIS, the Postal Inspection Service would be

slapped with exorbitant charges, plus several million dollars extra in license fees for mainframe computer software—not to mention a host of workload dilemmas.

One Module at a Time

It was time for a brand new system, a system with increased functionality. A system that required users to input data only once, and in the easiest way possible. A system that could max out data integrity by building in “business rules.” A system that shared data seamlessly between applications, permitted wide access to data, ensured painless data retrieval, and accommodated ever-changing priorities.

ITD managers formed a team to focus on a new version of ISDBIS. The result was The ISIIS Development Team. ISIIS: Inspection Service Integrated Information System.

The ISIIS Development Team included about 30 Postal Inspection Service employees and contractors and comprised Postal Inspectors, subject-matter experts (SMEs) in case management, ISDBIS mavens, programmers, technical writers, and quality assurance testers. The team’s first task was to document every



The ISIS Development Team

Front row (l to r): ITD Manager Steve Nguyen, Information Specialist Chris Solis-Grapes, Programmer Dzung Ta, Administrative Specialist Mary Baumgartel, Data Base Administrator Matt Bando, Inspector Judy Sorenson, Operations Technician Terry Heismann.

Second row (l to r): Inspector Richard Lennon, Quality Assurance Specialist Jan Metcalfe, Technical Writer Jacqueline Austin, Data Base Administrator Tia Pate (DBA), Pro-

grammer Rasheed Shobayo, Data Base Administrator-Programmer Umar Siddiqui, Quality Assurance Specialist Carol Lewis, Data Base Administrator Vic Mohammed.

Third row (l to r): Inspector Ken Michalczuk, Operations Technician Nancy Thomas, Information Specialist Alex Grapes, Information Systems Developer-Manager Danilo "Danny" Fularon, Webmaster James T. "JT" Taylor, Inspector Bob Bohde, Inspector Frank Silva, Qual-

ity Assurance Team Leader Brian Bulow, Programmer Dale Scott-Morris, and Retired Inspector Neil Schorr.

Not pictured are Database Administrator John Elliott, Integrated Data Management System Developer Kay Hilburn, Integrated Data Management System Developer Ed Arpin, former (and late) Business Project Leader Gail Neale, and former Inspector in Charge Sam Guttman.

program and every screen display in ISDBIS and, along the way, define business rules. New database design and coding requirements were also integral to the mission.

The Financial Crimes Database (FCD) was deployed in September 2003. The Workhours Module debuted in early November and, on March 1, 2004, a major platform of ISIS went live: the Resource Management System (RMS). The deployments were part of the solution, but also became part of ITD's problem.

ISDBIS was an integrated system. ISDBIS case management relied on information from RMS and the Workhours Module data. FCD brought in data from credit card companies. Monthly reports and Briefing Book stats borrowed data from all ISDBIS components.

While the ISDBIS migration team documented business rules and the ISIS development team coded the Case Management Module, other team members had to design a means to allow RMS, the Workhours Module, FCD, and ISDBIS to be able to "talk" with each other.

Slaying Dragons

The "challenges" side of the scale weighed a lot more than the "accomplishments" side, and there wasn't much time left. Daily meetings revealed only more policies needing more clarification. Questions by ITD staff multiplied in their quest to understand and respond to user needs. Decisions based on 1987 technology had to be reconsidered.

At last, portions of the Case Management Module were ready for testing—except that data from ISDBIS wasn't yet fully migrated. The ISDBIS Data Base Administrator wrote procedures to ensure data was migrated accurately to ISIS, and ISIS Data Base Administrators tried to shorten the time needed for migration to less than a week.

Staff members now focused on a number of intensive activities:

- Testing and retesting programs.
- Documenting programs for training purposes.
- Migrating more than 14 million records from ISDBIS to ISIS—more than 3 million of which contained errors

and had to be corrected.

- Developing and testing reports.
- Clarifying policy changes.
- Migrating ISDBIS from the San Mateo PDC to Eagan.

One by one, the ISIS Team slew the dragons. ISDBIS, a system in use for 17 years, was laid to rest. On the weekend of July 4, 2005, ISIS sprang to life.

ISIS Grows Up

So what does the Postal Inspection Service think of its new system? Barely more than a year on the job, the juvenile ISIS is still flexing its muscles—er, programs—and employees are still learning to love a new way of working.

Problems have been minor, especially compared to the enormous reach of the newly hatched system. Users now input data themselves—considered a good thing by some and extra work by others. Managers say that, by tracking national results and trends, ISIS leads to improved decision-making. Data found in most ISIS reports are updated weekly, compared to ISDBIS monthly updates. While some users prefer using stats from the Briefing Book, others have adapted to a new style.

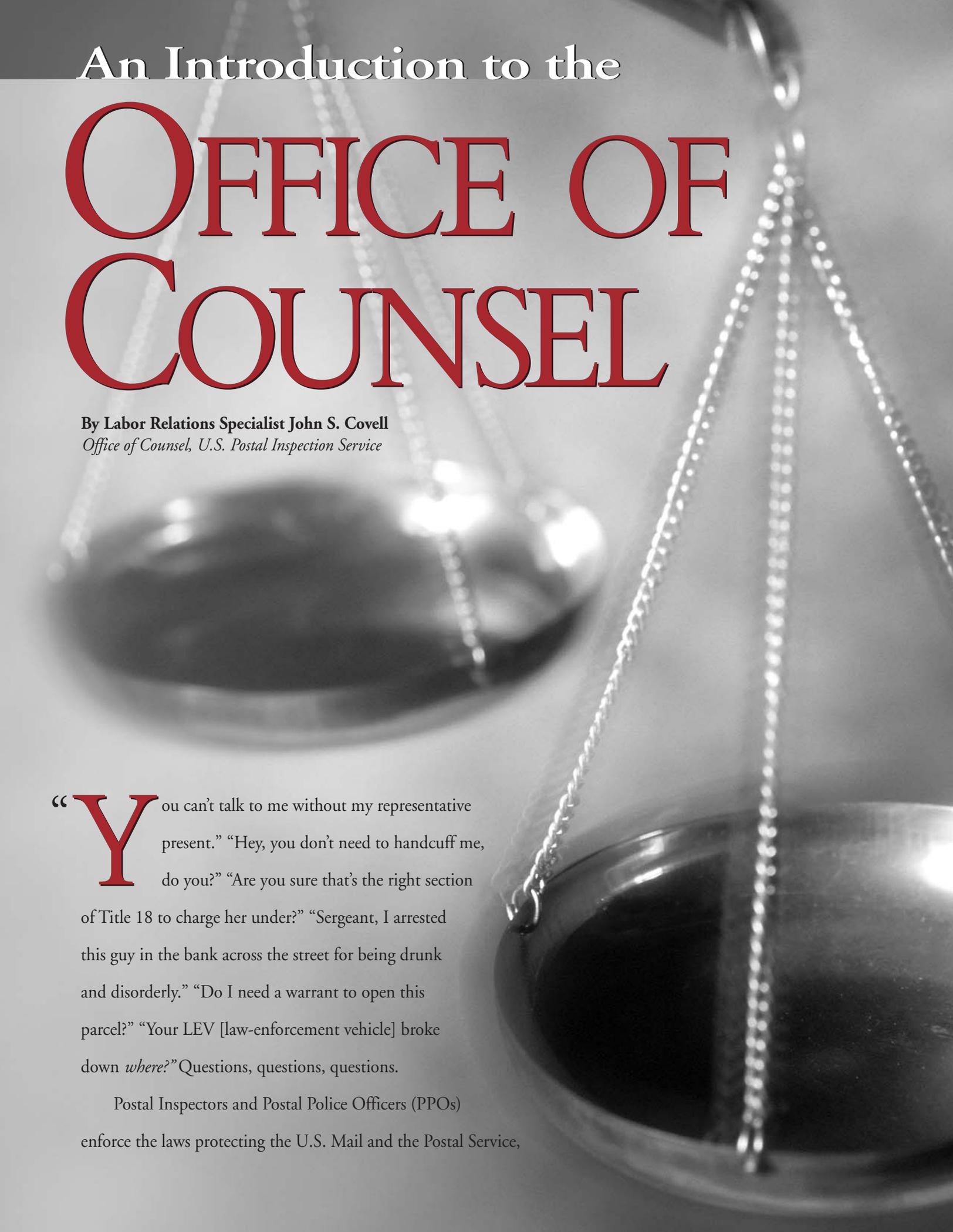
By any measure, ISIS is a triumph. Other law enforcement agencies are still struggling to develop a "virtual case file"—aka online case management—but to date, all have failed. After spending tens of millions of dollars, they're still working on it. We've got ISIS.

ISIS for the Future

New ISIS subsystems are in the works or will be adopted as technology advances. Recent enhancements include Mail Covers, the Polygraph Examiner System, Forfeiture Tracking, and the Laboratory Information Management System.

Property Disposition, Suspicious Incident Reporting, and the Electronic Surveillance Tracking System will be integrated with existing systems. A number of forms are in line for automation, and wireless, mobile functionality is still to come.

If you've got ideas for ISIS, talk to your Division Case Management Coordinator. ITD—and ISIS—is listening.



An Introduction to the OFFICE OF COUNSEL

By Labor Relations Specialist John S. Covell
Office of Counsel, U.S. Postal Inspection Service

“**Y**ou can’t talk to me without my representative present.” “Hey, you don’t need to handcuff me, do you?” “Are you sure that’s the right section of Title 18 to charge her under?” “Sergeant, I arrested this guy in the bank across the street for being drunk and disorderly.” “Do I need a warrant to open this parcel?” “Your LEV [law-enforcement vehicle] broke down *where?*” Questions, questions, questions.

Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Officers (PPOs) enforce the laws protecting the U.S. Mail and the Postal Service,

Know Your Counsel

An Inspector-Attorney is assigned to each division (and National Headquarters), as shown in this chart.

Division	Inspector-Attorney	Phone
Atlanta, Miami	Scott Morrell	404-608-4588
Chicago	Tom Kuczwarra	312-983-6227
Denver	Kathy Herzog-Evans	303-313-5337
Detroit	Terry Finley	312-669-5652
Houston, Ft. Worth	Tammie Moore	281-985-4135
New Jersey	Mike Cinque	973-693-4514
New York	Sandy Marcantonio	212-330-3399
Philadelphia	Jim Puchala	610-668-4510
Pittsburgh	Mike Rae	216-443-4010
San Francisco, Los Angeles	Ed Lawee	415-778-5958
St. Louis, Seattle	Terry McKeown	314-539-9421
NHQ L'Enfant Plaza	David Reardon	410-347-4482
NHQ L'Enfant Plaza	Robert Westbrooks	202-224-9199
NHQ Rosslyn	James Rickher	703-292-3531
Washington	Tom Sottile	610-668-4503

but they are not lawyers. Nevertheless, the Postal Inspection Service's enforcement activities, both preventive and investigative, have a single focus: the legal consequences awaiting anyone who fails to respect the right of the American people to a safe, reliable, and secure postal system and, for some, place of employment.

When an Inspector or PPO apprehends someone for violating these rights, that's not the end of the matter. The Inspection Service's Office of Counsel manages the Postal Service's relationship with the federal and state prosecutors who convert the evidence we obtain into a vindication of the right of the public and our employees to a safe and secure Postal Service.

Once known as the Legal Liaison Branch, the Office of Counsel is headed by a Chief Counsel—who is also an Inspector in Charge—who reports directly to the Chief Postal Inspector. After years of service as an Inspector-Attorney, Lawrence Katz was appointed Counsel in 2000. He directs a staff of about 30 Inspector-Attorneys, other professional specialists, and support staff whose mission is to provide prompt and competent legal advice and services in support of the agency's investigations, programs, and goals, and to process requests for access to Inspection Service records. Most of the 20 Inspector-Attorneys are domiciled at field offices, while the Counsel and the remainder of his staff are domiciled at National Headquarters at or near Washington, DC.

Laws are anything but static, and those governing U.S. Mail are no exception. Besides staying abreast of emerging case law and statutes, the Office of Counsel provides legal instruction to Inspectors and PPOs as part of their Basic Training, as well as in-service training at field offices. Counsel staff write legal training materials and publish a quarterly newsletter, *Of Counsel*, which is electronically distributed to all Inspection Service groups to provide legal updates, guidance, and relevant legal news. This material, as well as labor relations informa-

tion related to the uniformed Security Force, are also published on the Office of Counsel's Intranet Web site.

Inspector-Attorneys comprise the majority of the Office of Counsel staff. They must have at least three years of field experience as Postal Inspectors, plus a law degree from an accredited law school and admission to at least one state bar, before they are eligible for competitive promotion to these ISLE-14 positions. There are two Deputy Counsels (who are also Assistant Inspectors in Charge). AIC Emmett Mattes, domiciled in Bala Cynwyd, PA (near Philadelphia), supervises Inspector-Attorneys in the field.

AIC Elvin Crespo at NHQ supervises Inspector-Attorneys as well as Paralegal Specialists Joyce McMillan and Dianne Milner, Program Specialist Karen Soverino, Labor Relations Specialist John Covell, Information Disclosure Specialist Betty White, and three Information Disclosure Technicians, Renee Baxter, Lynne Freeman, and Tammy Warner. Eva McQueen and Crystal Newman provide secretarial support to Counsel staff at NHQ.

Some questions are easily answered. "Charge mail fraud involving insurance under 18 USC sections 1033 and 1341." "No, you can't exclude his union steward

from the interview in those circumstances." Sometimes the response is, "Let me research that and I'll get back to you." Occasionally, it's "You're not going to believe this, but that question has never come up." The common element in all of the questions is that Inspection Service employees need information to do their jobs supporting the agency's mission of protecting the U.S. Mail and the U.S. Postal Service. Assistance from the Office of Counsel may be crucial in determining whether an employee's effort is successful.

The Office of Counsel works in the background much of the time, but its heroes are not always unsung. Last year, the U.S. Department of Justice

recognized seven people for Sustained Exceptional Service, and Inspector-Attorney Terry Finley was one of them.

At its annual awards dinner, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force honored Terry's leadership qualities and high ethical standards in dealing with asset forfeiture matters. They cited his contributions to the investigation of the perpetrator of a fake investment business that bilked more than 8,000 victims—mostly low income and senior citizens—out of about \$20 million. Terry obtained a restraining order that led to the seizure of 31 pieces of real property and 49 vehicles. In another case, Terry assisted the Assistant U.S. Attorney in seizing foreign bank accounts and other assets of a fund manager who supported a lavish lifestyle by taking the proceeds of people's personal-injury settlements that had been entrusted to him for management. These cases demonstrate, not for the first time, that a criminal's downfall often begins with using the U.S. Mail for an illegal purpose.

Wherever the mail goes, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is on watch to ensure its safety and security, and the Office of Counsel is standing by to ensure that "our aim is true."

The Fabulous Riches of the Bankruptcy Court

A Guide for U.S. Postal Inspectors

By Dean P. Wyman, Esq.

To get more from the time and effort you expend on fraud investigations, Postal Inspectors may want to consider bankruptcy filings.

Untold riches abound in bankruptcy cases, and you should not overlook the benefits. If a suspect or witness files for bankruptcy, Inspectors should review every detail of the filing.

Chapters Under the Bankruptcy Code

Debtors may file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, under which they surrender their assets in exchange for a discharge of their debts, or a Chapter 13 bankruptcy, allowing them to keep many of their assets and pay creditors from future earnings. Once they've completed their payments, they'll be discharged of all debts and have no legal obligation to creditors.

Although Chapter 11 cases may be filed by

individuals, Chapter 11 cases are typically used by businesses seeking to reorganize. Therefore, debtors have different choices under the Bankruptcy Code.

In a Chapter 7 case, a bankruptcy trustee is appointed as an administrator. Similarly, a Chapter 13 trustee oversees Chapter 13 cases. In a Chapter 11 case, there is no trustee unless the court orders that one be appointed. Therefore, debtors in a Chapter 11 case remain in control of their assets and are known as “debtors in possession.”

Bankruptcy Forms

Bankruptcy forms are completed by debtors under penalty of perjury. For Postal Inspectors, the forms are the place to begin your work. To locate forms filed and signed by debtors, Postal Inspectors may access the “U.S. Party/Case Index” via the online PACER Service Center. Registration is at www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov. There is a cost for using the system.

Information provided by debtors to their attorneys for the purpose of assembling bankruptcy petitions and schedules may not fall within the scope of the attorney-client privilege. This is because debtors provide the information knowing it will be used in publicly filed bankruptcy forms.

Debtors are required to list all names they used in the past six years and the last four digits of Social Security or tax identification numbers.

Schedules of Assets

Schedules A and B require that debtors itemize their assets. Schedule A covers real property, and Schedule B covers personal property.

Although each category is important, Postal Inspectors may want to focus on

item 12: “Stock and interests in incorporated and unincorporated businesses. Itemize.”

If a debtor owns an incorporated business and files for bankruptcy, they must list their interest in the business. In that case, Inspectors may find it useful to obtain all of the records from that business or the names of employees of the business. Postal Inspectors should not be dissuaded if debtors ascribe a marginal or



zero value to the business. While the business may not have a high market value, its records may yield tremendous value to an investigation.

Three other items worth looking at are 15, 17, and 20. Item 15 requires debtors to list accounts receivable. Item 17 mandates that debtors disclose “liquidated debts owing debtor.” Item 20 states that debtors must list “contingent and unliquidated claims of every nature.” Answers to these items may prove useful, as anyone who owes a debtor money may have information about them and their prior activities.

A favorite schedule for Postal Inspectors is the list of unsecured creditors.

Creditors are unsecured if there is no collateral to back their obligations. Debtors must list all unsecured creditors in Schedule F, including names and addresses. Creditors may include victims or witnesses, and they often have valuable information about debtors’ financial backgrounds.

Debtors also must list secured creditors on Schedule D. These creditors are often financial institutions or mortgage companies with collateral, such as a mortgage or a lien, to back their debts. Such institutions are likely to have comprehensive information about the debtor, including credit reports and loan applications.

Statement of Financial Affairs

The Statement of Financial Affairs summarizes a debtor’s recent financial history. Inspectors may want to concentrate on Question 4, which requires debtors to list “all suits and administrative proceedings to which the debtor is or was a party within one year” before the bankruptcy filing. Court documents give an overview of the debtor’s activities, and attorneys who represent individuals in a lawsuit against the debtor are likely to have valuable information about the debtor.

Questions 1 and 2 require that debtors list their gross income for the year in which bankruptcy is filed and for the prior two years. Gross income reported on bankruptcy schedules is generally the same as that required on tax returns.

Inspectors should also compare income a suspect received as a result of fraud with the amount of gross income disclosed to the Bankruptcy Court.

A Comparative Approach to the Forms

Postal Inspectors may want to do more than just read bankruptcy forms. For example, it may be worthwhile to look for any disparities between the amount of unsecured debt on Schedule F and the value of assets on Schedule B. If

the debt greatly exceeds the value of assets, transactions related to the debt should be checked.

Inspectors can also review the types of creditors listed on Schedule F—credit card companies often top the list of unsecured creditors. Information on credit card applications can be compared with information listed on the petition. You may also cross-reference income disclosed to the credit card company with income revealed in the Statement of Financial Affairs. Disparities would suggest fraud.

Postal Inspectors need to examine the debts listed in Schedule D. If a mortgage substantially exceeds the market value of the real estate that secures it, the debtor was perhaps less than candid when applying for the loan. An Inspector's suspicions may be confirmed if the debtor lists a lawsuit by the mortgage company in the Statement of Financial Affairs.

If mortgage debts were taken out near the time of bankruptcy, it would be worthwhile to review a debtor's gross income in the Statement of Financial Affairs. Debtors with minimal income are unlikely to qualify for a substantial mortgage loan.

Meeting of Creditors

A "meeting of creditors" is held for every bankruptcy. It is similar to a deposition, but more abbreviated. At the meeting, debtors testify under oath about their financial background. The examination supplements, and may clarify, questions and answers in the bankruptcy forms. All information is recorded, and the recording is available to Postal Inspectors by contacting a local Office of the U.S. Trustee. Visit www.usdoj.gov/ust for a list of Trustee offices.

Adversary Actions: Objections to Discharge

Creditors or governments may challenge a debtor's ability to discharge a debt. The challenge may come in the form of a lawsuit, known as an "adversary proceeding," in Bankruptcy Court. There are many legal grounds to object to the discharge of a debt, but the objection most

frequently used is that the debtor committed fraud.

Adversary proceedings are similar to other lawsuits. Inspectors may find legal papers filed by the debtor, depositions of the debtor, and perhaps a debtor's admissions. It may also include court hearings at which the debtor testified. The legal order concluding the adversary proceeding is a key document. Debtors may not only agree that they should not receive a discharge, they may also admit to fraud. Alternatively, the court may find that the debtor committed fraud. All of this information should be reviewed.

Don't Forget About Bankruptcy Crimes

Mail fraud suspects who file for bankruptcy may have also committed bankruptcy crimes. Several statutes cover such crimes, and most state that debtors may not lie about bankruptcy-related issues, conceal assets, or use the bankruptcy system to further or conceal a fraud (18 USC, Sections 152 and 157). Bankruptcy offenses complement mail fraud charges.

A typical bankruptcy crime occurs when debtors conceal assets and lie on their schedules by claiming not to own

the assets. But this is not the only conduct covered by bankruptcy fraud statutes. If debtors engage in a scheme to defraud and then file bankruptcy to further the scheme, it is bankruptcy fraud. This is similar to using the mail in a scheme to defraud. Instead of the U.S. Mail, however, the debtor files a bankruptcy petition to further the fraud.

For example, when a debtor mails a credit card application with misinformation about income or employment, charges items to the cards, and then files bankruptcy to discharge debts to the credit card companies, that is an act of bankruptcy fraud.

Convictions for bankruptcy offenses have additional ramifications under Federal Sentencing Guidelines. The guidelines state that the offense level is increased by two if the offense involved "a misrepresentation or other fraudulent action during the course of a bankruptcy proceeding."

Conclusion

The Bankruptcy Court is a good place to start an investigation. It provides Postal Inspectors with a wide range of information that can help in developing not only mail fraud cases, but cases of bankruptcy fraud.

About the Author

Dean P. Wyman is a Senior Trial Attorney with the Cleveland Office of the U.S. Trustee and serves as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He is a member of the Federal Bar Association and the Cleveland Bar Association.



An article by Mr. Wyman, "May I Have

My Balance Please? Allocation of Payments In Bankruptcy Cases," was published in the Summer 1995 issue of the *Commercial Law Journal*. He also wrote "A 707(b) Sampler," which appeared in the May 1994 edition of Norton's Bankruptcy Law Adviser,

and "Cash Collateral: The Risks of Non-Consensual Use," which appeared in the September 1999 issue of the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*. He has been an instructor at the U.S. Trustee's National Bankruptcy Training Institute in Columbia, South Carolina, and a speaker at continuing legal education programs.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to U.S. Postal Inspector Gregory A. Duerr, Cleveland Field Office, Pittsburgh Division, for his comments and insights.

Disclaimer: The statements made in this article are solely those of the author and do not represent a statement of policy or otherwise of the Executive Office of U.S. Trustees, the U.S. Trustee for Region 9, or any other person or entity.

A History of Badges Worn By U.



The star badge, above at left, was pictured on the Chief Inspector's stationery in August 1921; its years of use are unknown. No documentation has been found for the two other badges pictured above. Star badges were worn in 1900 and possibly as late as 1922; by 1924 a shield-shaped badge was in use.¹⁰

By Jennifer M. Lynch, Researcher, Postal History, U.S. Postal Service

Badges have been worn by U.S. Postal Inspectors since at least 1900, although their use was rare, given Inspectors' desire for anonymity. Traditionally the authority and proof of identity for Postal Inspectors has resided in their pocket-size commission, or "credentials," usually kept in their coat or hip pocket and shown only as needed. Until 1970, some Postal Inspectors obtained their badges locally, and the designs varied.

By 1922, badges were issued to all Postal Inspectors. On August 30, 1922, the Chief Inspector sent a letter to all Inspectors explaining their proper use:

"... As a precautionary measure [badges] are issued to all inspectors, but it is believed their use will be justified only in rare instances and that most inspectors, except those employed in cities where there is a large number of foreigners, will

probably never find it necessary to show them.

Inspectors are prohibited from displaying their badges publicly and are not to exhibit them in private unless other means of identification fail.¹"

The 1934 *Manual of Instructions for Post Office Inspectors* made no mention of badges. It did, however, contain a section on secrecy, stating that an Inspector should

"keep his [sic] own counsel" and "go quietly about his business, avoiding ... self-advertisement."²

By the 1940s, badges were no longer issued to every Inspector. The 1945 *Manual of Instructions for Post Office Inspectors* contained the following paragraph:

"Inspectors who must deal with people who do not understand the meaning of the commission may request issuance of

U.S. Postal Inspectors



Date of introduction and first use unknown. First seen pictured in a collection of postal badges dated October 9, 1944.⁹



The badge with the eagle seal of the United States Postal Service was introduced and in use in 1973.⁸



The badge with the Postal Service's "sonic eagle" design was announced in the November 18, 1999, issue of the *Postal Bulletin*. It was in use by 2000.⁷

badges. Very few inspectors need badges. Requests must satisfy the inspector in charge that the need for the badges is real. Inspectors will be expected to give badges the same care as they give their commissions. When no longer needed, badges should be returned to the inspector in charge by registered mail.³

One Postal Inspector assigned in 1949

didn't receive a badge until the early 1960s, some 15 years later.⁴

Since 1970, badges once again were routinely issued to Postal Inspectors. In the early 1970s, Inspectors were instructed to wear a badge while making arrests, and to wear it on the left suit lapel "when necessary" to identify themselves in Post Office work areas. Inspectors were specifically instructed *not* to use

unofficial or locally prepared badges.⁵

Currently, all Postal Inspectors are issued badges and are required to carry them along with their credentials.⁶

If you have information on badges worn by Inspectors prior to 1973, please e-mail U.S. Postal Historian Meg Ausman at mausman@usps.gov.

¹ *Confidential Instructions to Post Office Inspectors*, July 1, 1925, page 75, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives and Records Administration.

² *Manual of Instructions for Post Office Inspectors*, July 1, 1934, 14-15, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives and Records Administration.

³ *Manual of Instructions for Post Office Inspectors*, July 1, 1941 (with changes

through 1945), chapter 1, section 2, paragraph 1.

⁴ E-mail from U.S. Postal Inspector Ronald J. Pry to Jennifer Lynch, 5/23/2005.

⁵ *Confidential Instructions to Post Office Inspectors*, December 1970, section 2.4, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives and Records Administration.

⁶ U.S. Postal Inspector Tripp Brinkley in a telephone conversation with Jennifer

Lynch, July 18, 2005.

⁷ The "sonic eagle" badge was worn by Inspectors pictured on the cover of the January 2000 *U.S. Postal Inspection Service Directory*.

⁸ *Postal Inspection Service Bulletin*, Summer 1973, front cover.

⁹ Photograph No. 213 in the collection of the U.S. Postal Service Historian.

¹⁰ The "star" badge appeared below the signature block of a letter from Chief Post Office Inspector Rush D. Simmons

to all Inspectors, dated August 31, 1921. A Post Office Inspector's star badge was mentioned in the July 25, 1900, issue of *The Washington Post*, and a man wearing a five-pointed star on his overcoat was pictured in a group of Chicago postal employees in a circa-1922 photograph album (No. 1308) in the collection of the U.S. Postal Service Historian. The November 23, 1924, issue of the *Chicago Daily Tribune* referred to an Inspector's "shield shaped badge."

The Death of Post Office Inspector

Elbert P. Lamberth



By Postal Inspector Ron J. Pry
*North Houston Domicile,
 Houston Division*



In 1991 the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was dedicated by President George H. Bush in honor of the nation's law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. By 2003, included among the names engraved on the granite, parapet-like walls were seven Postal Inspection Service employees: four Inspectors, two Investigative Aides, and one Postal Police Officer.



The name of Post Office Inspector Elbert Perry Lamberth, age 34, is not among them. His name can only be found on a solitary tombstone in Booneville, Mississippi, where no hint is revealed of the tragedy that befell him.

There is no exact date when the story of Inspector Lamberth's death was forgotten. Like smoke from a candle, it slowly drifted from memory, along with the lives

of the Post Office Inspectors who knew the young man and investigated his murder. The National Archives building in Washington, DC, located just a few blocks from the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, has voluminous case files documenting the murders of all the Postal Inspection Service employees whose names have been carved on the national memorial.

For Inspector Lamberth, however, no case file, report of prosecution, or any other clue to his sacrifice exists. Even the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, has no record to indicate Lamberth was ever employed by the Post Office Department. In short, there was nothing to suggest a man named Elbert Lamberth had once carried a Post Office Inspector commission. At least not until a single sheet of paper was discovered by accident in October 2003.

The discovery was made at the National Archives when a manila folder marked, "Misc. Correspondence-INC

Post Office Inspector Elbert Perry Lamberth, killed in the line of duty, August 17, 1917, at age 34. No investigative case file or Post Office Department personnel record exists to document the story of his tragic murder.

San Francisco 1917," was opened. Long since closed, with its contents pressed together over time, the one-inch-thick folder contained an assortment of brittle, mundane letters and reports. Reviewing each fragile page, even for a historian, would likely accomplish little more than induce sleep.

A single letter, actually a carbon copy of a letter written by the Acting Inspector in Charge at Chattanooga, Tennessee, would completely change this perception and bring forward in a rush the tragic story of a Post Office Inspector whose life and career ended in violence in a small Tennessee town more than 88 years ago. In yet another bizarre twist, the letter was discovered only 48 hours before Chief Postal Inspector Lee R. Heath and former Inspector in Charge Daniel L. Mihalko dedicated a laser-

etched, crystal memorial plaque honoring what was believed to be an inclusive list of our agency's personnel killed in the line of duty. But in fact, one name was missing.

Elbert Lamberth's career as a Post Office Inspector began in April 1914, when he received his appointment from the position of clerk at the Corinth, Mississippi, Post Office. No doubt he and his pretty young wife, Myrtle, were pleased with his promotion. They had an infant son and would soon add a daughter to the family. At 31 years of age, Elbert was optimistic. He was one of the nation's youngest Post Office Inspectors, his first domicile assignment was in Corinth, and his whole life and career lay ahead of



The Corinth, MS, Post Office as it appeared when Inspector Lamberth was domiciled there.

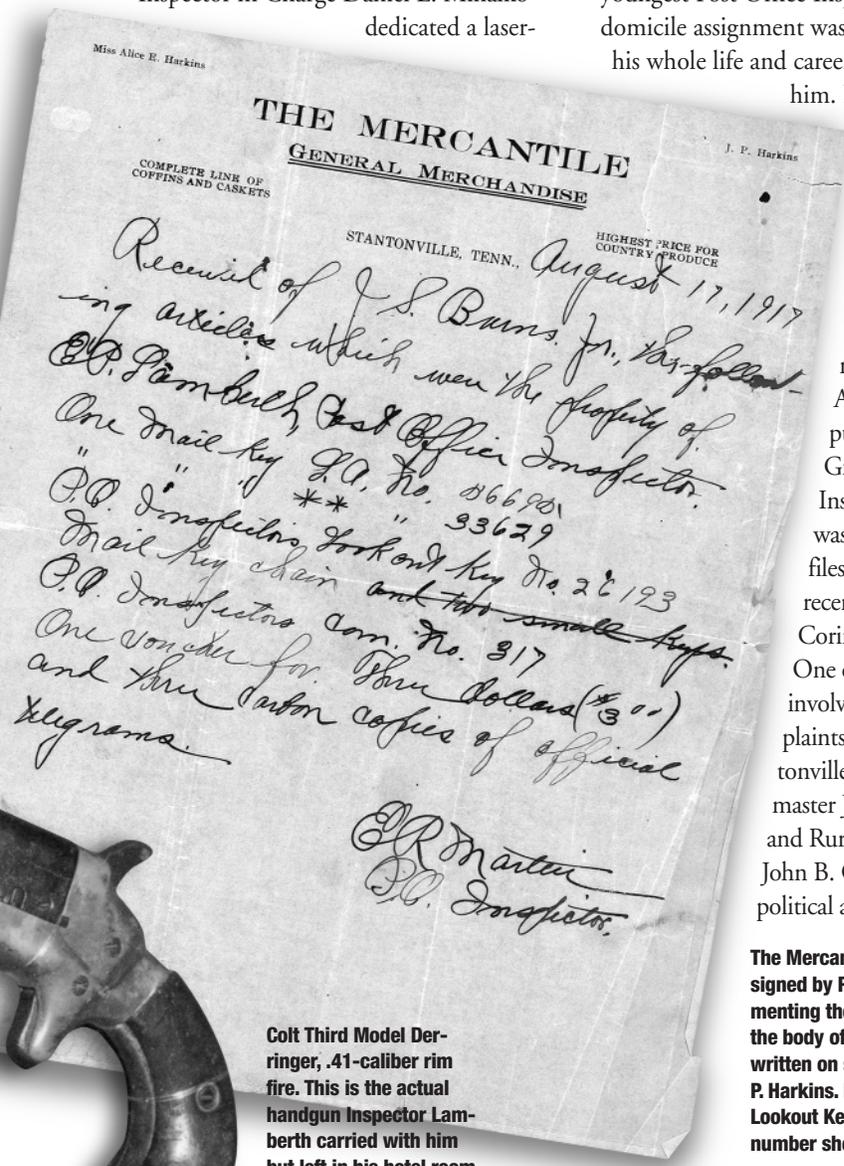
Exact details of the complaints are conspicuously missing from all newspaper accounts and court records. Whatever their contents, the complaints caused the 34-year-old Inspector to travel across the rough Tennessee clay roads, most likely by horseback or buggy, to investigate.

In a brief letter written to his wife just four days before his murder, Inspector Lamberth lamented that he would be delayed in Gadsden, Alabama, for a few days longer than expected. "I am here and am unable to say how long I will be here. Got my case before grand jury but the prisoner is not here yet. So guess I'll be here for another day at least." Unbeknownst to Inspector Lamberth, he was delaying a meeting with a man who would take his life.

By August 15, his grand jury testimony completed, Inspector Lamberth headed for Stantonville. He arrived early on the afternoon of August 16, calculating he could finish his investigation with only one more night's lodging away from home. He needed to get back to Jackson, Tennessee, where his wife and two children had taken up temporary lodging. In the days before paved roads and rapid travel times, Inspectors on assignments lasting as briefly as two weeks and as close as 50 miles from home often found temporary quarters for their entire family. Inspector Lamberth routinely took his wife and children with him on such assignments.

As evening fell upon Stantonville, Inspector Lamberth checked into the Elam Hotel, just across the street and two

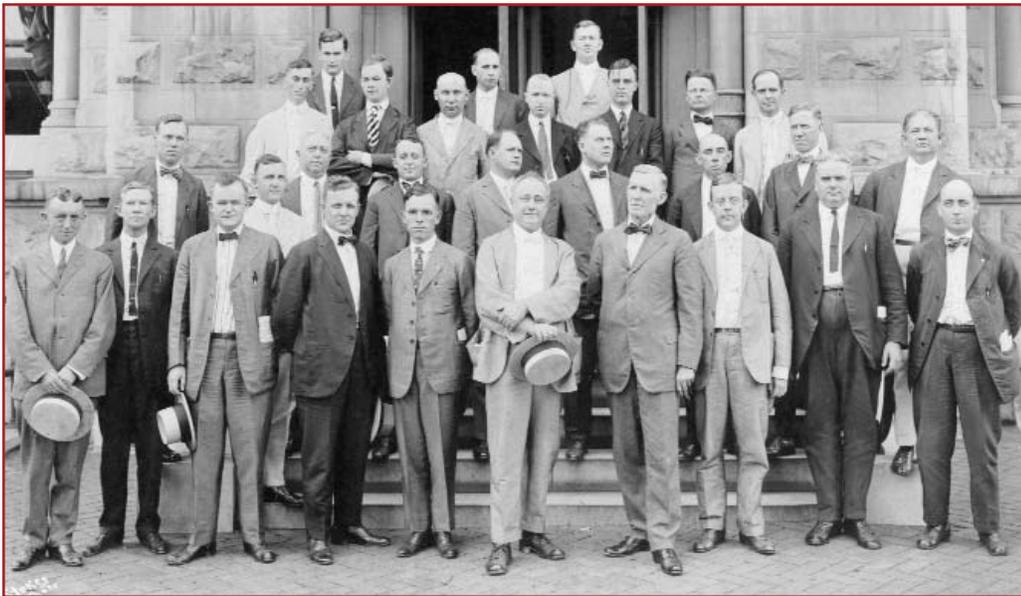
lots east of the town's Post Office, which was situated in a small general store called, "The Mercantile." Postmaster Harkins, a burly man with a questionable reputation in the



The Mercantile receipt, dated August 17, 1917, signed by Post Office Inspector E. R. Martin, documenting the recovery of accountable property from the body of Inspector Lamberth. The receipt was written on stationery of the store of Postmaster J. P. Harkins. Included is the entry, "P. O. Inspector's Lookout Key No. 26193." This is the same serial number shown on a modern-day Inspector's key.



Colt Third Model Der-ringer, .41-caliber rim fire. This is the actual handgun Inspector Lamberth carried with him but left in his hotel room before his interview with Carrier Gibson.



Inspector Lamberth poses with other Post Office Inspectors of the Chattanooga Division in 1917. Lamberth is in the second row, fifth from the left.

community, was also the store's proprietor. In a morbid twist of irony, advertisements in the small Post Office and store boasted a "complete line of coffins and caskets."

His neighbors, William C. Elam and his wife, owned the hotel where Inspector Lamberth intended to stay for the night. They lived in a small, white-framed home on the adjacent lot. The hotel, a single-story building with high ceilings that let the summer heat rise above guests' beds, proudly offered dining amenities, a porch, and a fenced-in courtyard. By all accounts it was a clean, pleasant rest stop in a small, quiet, rural Tennessee town.

After visiting his room, Inspector Lamberth ate dinner at the hotel, leaving his unpacked bag in the room along with his coat. Packed in his travel bag was a personally owned .41-caliber derringer. Lamberth probably carried the weapon more for protection from strangers he might encounter on isolated country roads than from mail thieves or other postal offenders. Besides, his investigation in Stantonville appeared to be nothing more than a dispute between a letter carrier and his boss.

According to two ladies dining at a nearby table, Lamberth was finishing his meal around 8:00 p.m., just as Carrier Gibson walked up the porch steps and asked to speak to him. Lamberth amiably obliged the carrier, the two shook hands, and they walked out to the porch and sat

down together. The sun was setting behind the hotel, and the porch must have been considerably cooler than the interior of the building.

No one else heard any of the nearly hour-long conversation between the two men, but there was no indication of any trouble, at least not until they both rose from their chairs and walked off the porch into the dark courtyard. Gibson walked across the courtyard with Lamberth following closely behind him. They passed William Elam, who was headed into his hotel. Although he heard raised, terse voices, he paid no attention.

As Gibson walked through the waist-high gate at the edge of the courtyard, he suddenly turned and faced Lamberth head on. Wielding a revolver pulled quickly from his coat pocket, Gibson shouted he was going to kill Lamberth and immediately began firing. Horrified guests were aghast as the young, sandy-haired Inspector with a slightly receding hairline and wire-rimmed spectacles collapsed on the ground just inside the gate. Gibson hurriedly walked away into the night, gun in hand.

With kerosene lanterns and cries for help, hotel guests began attending to the wounded man and searching the area for the gun responsible for three terrible explosions that, for an instant, had lit up the courtyard and the east wall of the hotel. The town doctor was summoned along with the county sheriff over in

Purdy, probably notified by way of the hotel's hand-cranked telephone. Until this relatively new invention made its appearance in Stantonville, emergency calls were dispatched by horse-back, or in larger towns, by telegraph.

Although Gibson had disappeared into the hot, balmy August night, another family member made an

unexpected appearance. Gibson's wife walked through the gate and into the pale yellow glow of the kerosene lanterns. Claiming she wanted to check on the young Inspector's condition, she knelt beside him, then got up and walked out the same gate from which her husband had retreated only minutes earlier. She had arrived so quickly that Lamberth was still lying on the barren hotel courtyard, an area raked clean of all grass, a common practice in the days before lawn mowers.

Inspector Lamberth was soon carried to a bed within the white, wood-framed home of the hotel's owner, W. C. Elam. His home was only 100 feet northeast of the courtyard. Doctor E. Gerry Sanders found his patient there, suffering from three gunshot wounds, one of which was mortal. But there was more to be found.

Outside in the courtyard, as Inspector Lamberth was being carried away, witnesses now found a large handgun lying next to the victim. No one had noticed the revolver earlier.

Witnesses were sure the Inspector had been unarmed when the shooting occurred. He wore no coat while dining, and a handgun of that size would have been impossible to conceal. In fact, no one had noticed the handgun until immediately after Mrs. Gibson's brief appearance when she knelt beside the wounded lawman, purportedly to check on his condition.

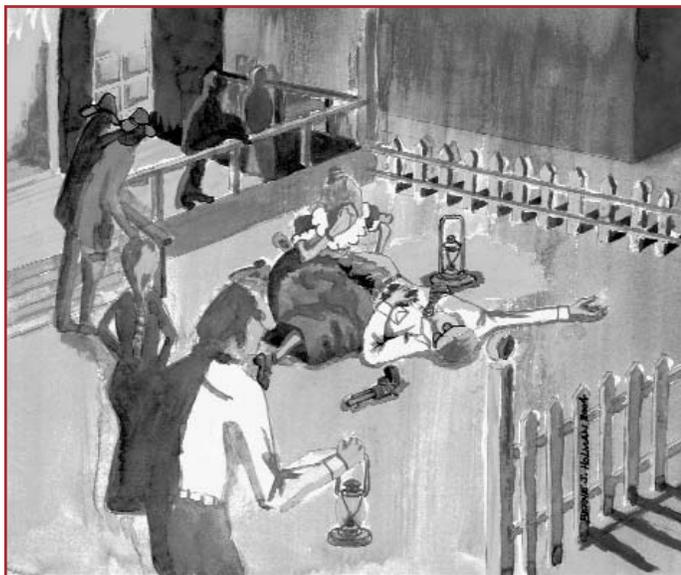
Surely she would not have planted a

gun beside him in a plan to thwart an otherwise indefensible, wanton act of murder? A week later the local newspaper, *The McNairy County Independent*, would accuse Mrs. Gibson of committing that very act, claiming, “The defense will doubtless be the ‘back pocket attempt,’” a colloquial phrase referring to the act of carrying a handgun in a back pocket that could be dropped at the scene of an otherwise unjustifiable shooting.

Stantonville Postmaster and shop owner Joe Harkins was also notified of the shooting. He had lodged one of the cross complaints that resulted in Inspector Lamberth’s fateful visit. Now he was contacting Post Office Inspectors again, only this time the message was urgent and forwarded to Acting Inspector in Charge W. B. Brannan at Chattanooga Division Headquarters. Inspectors throughout the division were immediately dispatched to Stantonville via the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Line to Corinth, some 20 miles from Stantonville. The remaining miles would have to be traversed by buggy or horseback.

By the time the sun rose on the morning of August 17, 1917, Inspector Lamberth was nearing death. He had given two deathbed statements, each describing how he was shot by Carrier

Watercolor of the crime scene, the Elam Hotel courtyard, painted by Berne Holman, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, San Francisco.



Gibson without provocation or warning. Knowing

he was dying, the young man with a beautiful wife, two healthy children, and a promising career made one final plea.

In an especially poignant letter written a month later by hotel owner William Elam to Mrs. Lamberth, the hotel owner stated, “Mr. Lamberth said to me different times it was so hard for him to leave his wife and babies. He said he did not get to see his babies and tell them good-bye when he left home last.” Sadly, his last desire, to see his wife and infant children one last time, would not occur. Inspector Lamberth died at 8:30 a.m., only a few hours before his family arrived by wagon.

As for Gibson, he was nowhere to be found. In fact, with help from more than just his wife, he was arranging for legal representation from four high-priced and influential attorneys. Gibson and his family had concerns far different from those of the Lamberth’s. A barber by trade, Gibson wanted no taste of jailhouse food or incarceration. What he wanted was the best legal representation his family’s money could buy. And he got it.

While Gibson remained in hiding, his attorneys arranged for his surrender to the county sheriff in Selmer. Six days after the shooting, on August 22, Gibson appeared at the county courthouse, surrounded by legal counsel. He was ushered into a courtroom for the first of several court appearances. Present in the courtroom with their client were four famed

defense attorneys: W. C. Sweat, the brothers Abernathy and Abernathy, and H. P. Wood. The men seated at the prosecution’s table were no less impressive. Ten-

nessee Attorney General T. B. Whitehorse and U.S. District Attorney William D. Kyser jointly announced they would represent the state.

Attempts to have Gibson held without bond, a standard practice for a capital murder case, were thwarted by the fact that Tennessee had abolished the death penalty. The prosecution had no choice but to concede to the eloquent, persuasive defense arguments that John Gibson was entitled to bail because he could not be charged with a capital crime. The court reluctantly agreed but set bail at a staggering

\$15,000—a huge amount of money by 1917 standards. Gibson immediately posted bond and walked from the courthouse without spending even one day behind bars.

On August 18, 1917, the day after Lamberth’s death, Acting Inspector in Charge Brannan issued a letter to the Inspectors in his division. Carbon copies were dispatched to every INC in the country. Bearing the heading, “SPECIAL AND IMMEDIATE,” the following paragraph appeared:

“The latest information received by this office indicates that rural carrier Gipson [sic] is still a fugitive and that some difficulty may be experienced in bringing about his apprehension. If any inspector of this division knows Gipson [sic], he is hereby directed to proceed to Corinth, Mississippi, by first train after receipt of this letter, and there get into touch with Inspectors who are engaged in the investigation, advising this office by telegraph that he is doing so.”

Five days later, Gibson had retained four attorneys, was arraigned on a murder charge, and was released on bond.

While the media and the gossip focused on the accused, Lamberth’s family struggled to cope with the grief and loss



A family photo of Myrtle Lamberth and her two children, Elbert, Jr., and Sarah, taken approximately seven years after her husband’s murder. The absence of a father in this family photograph is painfully obvious.

of a loving husband and father, a man described by the local newspaper as “a quiet, peaceful, Christian gentleman.” To compensate Myrtle Lamberth and her two children for their loss, the federal government began sending her a small pension check, adding a few extra dollars for her two children. After surviving for nearly two years with help from family members, Mrs. Lamberth would eventually move away, settling in Dallas, Texas, where she could find employment to support her family.

As for John Gibson, his trial began on May 29, 1918. The prosecution spent two days presenting its case to the 12-man jury. Inspector Lamberth’s dying declarations were admitted, along with testimony from witnesses who saw assorted segments of the meeting between the Inspector and the defendant. Still others testified to the details of the shooting and that the weapon found beside Lambert’s body belonged to the defendant. Two Post Office Inspectors testified in rebuttal regarding Lamberth’s reputation as “a quiet, peaceful man.”

The defense then presented an incredible story. Gibson sat defiantly in the witness chair and claimed Lamberth had threatened to kill him and had followed the frightened carrier into the hotel courtyard. Gibson claimed he had two handguns in his coat and, as he attempted to flee, one of the weapons fell to the ground. The Inspector picked it up and then threatened, “I told you to stop. If you don’t stop I will kill you.” Gibson continued, “I swung myself as nearly around the [gate] post as I could before I fired. He [Lamberth] said, ‘I will show you how to report me’ and I fired three times. Then he turned and started towards the [Elam] house, and I went home.”

No record exists of the closing arguments, but Gibson’s prominent attorneys must have earned their fees. The jury returned a guilty verdict to a reduced charge of voluntary manslaughter, deciding Gibson had not planned to assault the Inspector when he went to the hotel.

Apparently the jury did not feel there was sufficient evidence to warrant a mur-

der conviction—despite the fact that Gibson carried two revolvers to the meeting, asked Lambert to follow him from the hotel into the darkened courtyard, threatened to kill him before shooting three times, and lied on the witness stand.

After the guilty verdict was read, Gibson was promptly sentenced to serve two to 10 years in the state penitentiary, but was allowed to remain free on bond pending an appeal.

Once again, Gibson walked out of the courthouse surrounded by his legal team. Lamberth family members, including his widow and a large group of Post Office Inspectors and postal employees, remained in the courtroom, stunned.

As promised, Gibson’s legal team filed a lengthy appeal, citing a litany of errors committed by the presiding judge. In September 1919, Gibson’s conviction was sustained by the state appellate court, but it served no practical purpose.

While no records exist as to what happened to Inspector Lamberth’s killer in the 16 months after his conviction, a single entry in an old McNairy County record book proved to be the final note in the case. On September 18, 1919, the county sheriff reported to the presiding judge that the court’s order to have Gibson pay the costs of his trial could not be fulfilled because the *estate* of John B. Gibson had insufficient assets to cover court costs.

The term “estate” is significant, according to a McNairy County attorney queried on the term, as it means “the property of the *decedent*.” The court subsequently ordered the state to pay the court costs. Thus, by September 1919, John B. Gibson was dead, the “war to end all wars” was over, the murder case of Post Office Inspector Elbert Perry Lamberth was closed, and Myrtle Lamberth would soon take her two children to Texas.

Myrtle Lamberth never remarried and rarely spoke of the horrible summer



Post Office Inspector Elbert Lamberth’s name was officially recorded on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, and his sacrifice formally recognized by adding his name to a Postal Inspection Service memorial plaque in June 2004. Lamberth’s daughter, Sarah Lamberth Fink (pictured here), traveled from her home in Tyler, Texas, to attend the ceremony at National Headquarters.

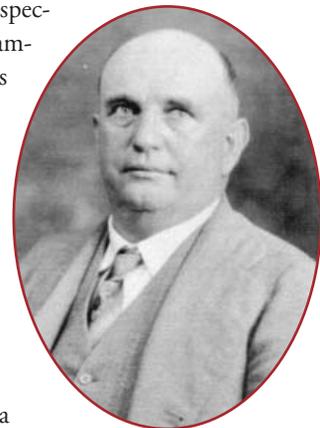
of 1917, when the dreams and ambitions of the Lamberth family changed forever. She died in 1978 and was buried in Dallas beside her son, Elbert Price Lamberth, who preceded her in death. Their daughter, Sarah, is 90 years “young” and resides in Tyler, Texas. She still grieves for the father she never knew.

The Mystery Continues: What happened to the killer?

The case of Inspector Elbert Lamberth and his killer, John Gibson, appeared by all accounts to have reached its final conclusion by the summer of 1919.

The defendant had apparently died and the court records abruptly ended. But a bizarre hint of a different ending soon emerged, one too incredible to believe and yet too incredible to ignore.

Several months after I finished writing the preceding story, a descendent of John Gibson revealed a family secret. Gibson had allegedly faked his own death to avoid going to prison. Purportedly, by 1919 he had fled to Texas where he lived out a long life in a small, anonymous town, unimpeded by the burdens of a murder conviction or life on the run as a fugitive. According to the story, which was told at family reunions in years past, Gibson had shipped a sealed coffin from



Texas back to his home state, supposedly containing his remains, along with instructions that his coffin remain unopened and be promptly buried.

A few grieving family members, more intent on seeing dear John one last time than honoring his last request, pried open the coffin. To their horror, inside was the body of a large, dead hog. Exactly what became of the coffin (and the hog) is unclear, but the story raised a nearly impossible-to-believe assertion and an equally incredible challenge: Could the story be verified?

Hunting down a fugitive in today's society presents endless obstacles for a Postal Inspector. Locating a fugitive whose trail was covered up more than 86 years ago brings new meaning to the phrase "cold case file." This case wasn't just cold, it was frozen solid.

The first goal was to find John Gibson's tombstone. Perhaps John was buried next to his mother, father, or wife. Information on the tombstone might lead to a death certificate—or perhaps two certificates if he had "died" twice. A genealogical search of the Gibson family tree revealed that his mother, Texas Ann Sutton, was buried near the scene of the murder. Her faded marble tombstone, and those of several children, were located but there was no stone bearing John's name.

Further clues led to rural Kaufman County, Texas, where John's father, Joseph, was supposedly buried in a small cemetery identified only by the words, "Henderson–Mosley." Inquiries at four Post Offices and two funeral homes in Kaufman County all produced the same response: No one had ever heard of that cemetery. But persistence paid off with a lead from a third funeral home. Although the director was unfamiliar with the cemetery, he suggested visiting a Web site, "findagrave.com."

Based on scant few identifiers, the Web site produced a single lead. There was only one Henderson–Mosley Cemetery in the United States, and it was located off of an unmarked road in Kaufman County. With help from three rural letter carriers, I located the tiny cemetery, overgrown with weeds and sparsely popu-

lated with faded tombstones. The cemetery's owner, an elderly lady who resided at a nearby nursing home, confidently announced that Joseph's tombstone was within the cemetery's iron fence, but that no other Gibsons were buried there. It looked as if I had reached another dead end (no pun intended).

Her curiosity aroused by this strange inquiry about a tombstone in a cemetery long since abandoned, the cemetery's owner asked a question of her own: What tombstone was I hoping to find? On hearing the name Joseph Gibson and the possible link to son John Gibson, she volunteered, "You should have asked those questions of J. M. Gipson. Joseph was his grandfather, and John Gibson was his uncle." Frustrated that I was probably decades too late for such an interview, I asked, "And where is this man now?" She responded, "Oh, he lives down the hall from me here at the nursing home. I had lunch with him today."

After a fast drive to the nursing home, a quick walk down a hallway, and a few minutes pacing the corridor while J. M. got dressed, I was met by a fascinating, amiable gentleman, 89 years "young," who was articulate, bursting with pride, and eager to tell stories of his childhood.

He began by explaining that "J. M." was his actual name. His parents couldn't agree on a name, so they just gave him two initials. The Gibson family had also begun using the name *Gipson*, although he did not know why the alteration had occurred. But one portion of his story was more than just entertaining—it was an epiphany. John Gibson, the man who had murdered Inspector Lamberth, had come to Texas before 1920 and had lived for 20 years in Port Arthur. He was buried near that town, which is located in the far southeastern corner of the state.

In addition to knowing his Uncle John's final resting place and the year he came to Texas, J. M. vividly remembered overhearing his parents talk about how John had killed someone in Tennessee and then fled to Texas to avoid prison. J. M. also revealed several curious points he felt were worth mentioning. John had a brother named Judge who had also killed

a man, but the family paid a large sum of money to keep Judge from going to jail. J. M. didn't know how Judge had avoided prison, but he found it peculiar that, although the family often spoke about Judge's murder case, they never spoke about John's murderous activity.

J. M. volunteered one other oddity. John Gibson never visited any of his extended family in Kaufman County—the family always traveled to Port Arthur to visit him. J. M. did not ask why Uncle John would not come for a visit. He figured that John preferred staying away from the family. As for the story of the dead hog in the coffin, J. M. said he never heard that story, but with a chuckling voice added, "Knowing the Gipson family back then, it doesn't surprise me."

Hearing J. M. speak of his uncle brought a startling realization. Here was a man who had personally seen John Gibson many times after 1919, the year his case and his life had supposedly ended.

Port Arthur would also be an ideal place for someone to disappear. In the town's backyard was the "Spindletop" oil boom that began in 1901, causing the area's population to explode from 15,000 to 70,000 in one year. In the same year, Spindletop produced 17.5 million barrels of oil. Rugged men with anonymous pasts flocked to the area for decades, working the blight of wooden oil derricks and gaslit refineries that sprung up like weeds in the prairies and rice fields that surrounded the city. The pale yellow glow of the refineries may have lit their faces, but the light revealed nothing of their identities.

With a new lead on Gibson's whereabouts, the search effort turned to genealogical records, census reports, death records, and random inquiries at cemeteries. Louise Jeter, a lifelong resident of the Port Arthur area and an accomplished genealogical researcher, volunteered assistance with what she described as "the most unusual request I've ever received for help in locating an ancestor." Within a week, she struck the proverbial gold—or, more appropriate for that region—she struck oil.

"John B. Gipson," son of Joseph Gibson and Texas Ann Sutton, was buried

in a local cemetery. When cemetery records showed no such person was buried on the grounds, Louise's father walked the rows of tombstones searching for the headstone that might unravel the mystery. A manhunt first begun in 1917 was once again closing in on the murderer.

Finally, on a cold afternoon in January 2005, John B. Gibson was located, 87 years after his conviction. His granite tombstone, stained with age, bore the last name "Gipson" and the dates 1879 – 1938.

A few days later, John Gibson's obituary and funeral record were located. His date of birth, as well as the names of parents and siblings, all matched the identifiers of the man convicted for the murder of Inspector Elbert Lamberth. Without a doubt, this was the man who had violently taken the life of a young Post Office Inspector in Stantonville, Tennessee, on a hot, humid night in 1917. His obituary confirmed what J. M. Gipson so vividly recalled. John B. "Gipson," who died on May 6, 1938, had been "a Port Arthur resident for 20 years." Simple subtraction reveals that Gibson arrived in Port Arthur in 1918, the same year he was convicted of murder. In one final note of irony, the sermon at Gibson's funeral was delivered by a Pastor "Lambert," the same incorrect

spelling that was often given for Inspector Lamberth.

The story of the forgotten murder of a 32-year-old Post Office Inspector, combined with the incredible story of a killer who "died twice," appears to be closer to fiction than fact. Do we now know the whole truth beyond any doubt? Definitely not. The unexplained absence of case files for this investigation is troubling, as is the absence of personnel records for Inspector Lamberth. The murders of all other Inspection Service personnel are well-documented. Only Inspector Lamberth's file is missing. The investigation of the 1908 murder of Inspector Charles Fitzgerald, also a member of the Chattanooga Division, is recorded in a voluminous case file that covers investigative activities into the mid-1920s. But the whereabouts of the file on Inspector Lamberth's murder are unknown, as are definitive answers to many questions.

Tennessee prison records for the 1918 – 1920 time frame are also nonexistent. The 1920 National Census reveals that a man named John B. Gibson resided in a Tennessee prison, but the offense is not listed and the inmate's age does not match that of Lam-

The epitaph reads, "His many virtues form the noblest monument to his memory."

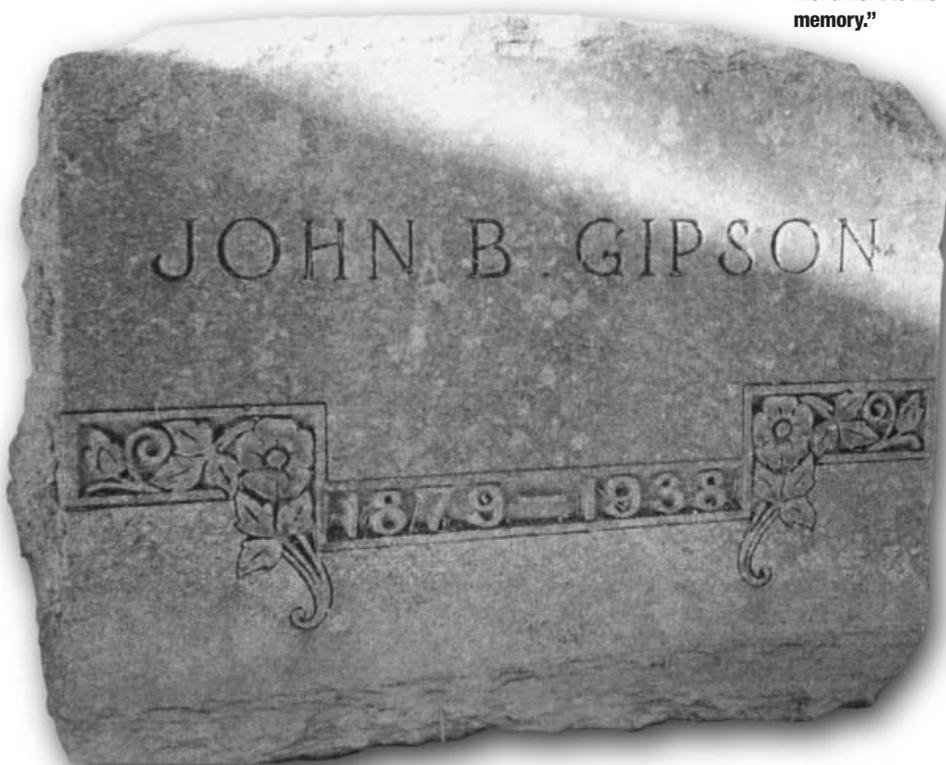
berth's killer. He is also listed as being an unskilled laborer. The John B. Gibson of this story was not only a rural letter carrier but a barber, which was a skilled profession in the early 20th century and undoubtedly a talent highly valued in prison. Fingerprints and photographs of inmates in 1920, if they ever existed, have long since been destroyed.

In summary, we must rely on the best available evidence for this story—court records, an appellate court decision, newspaper stories, and the recollections of descendants. Based on these sources, John B. Gibson, aka "Gipson," appears to have eluded punishment, although he was convicted for his crime. Inspector Lamberth's brother wept openly when he spoke of this tragedy, telling family members that the man who killed his brother never served a day in prison. The brother was apparently correct, although he never knew that the man who took his brother's life had escaped prison not by death, but by deception.

Acknowledgements

Researching a Post Office Inspector's murder that occurred in 1917 required a team approach. Special thanks are extended to the following people, whose cooperation, time, and talents were essential to solving the mystery of Inspector Lamberth's murder. Without their involvement, many details of the case might never have been unearthed and, without doubt, Inspector Lamberth's name would not have been rightfully added to the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

Sarah L. Fink, retired Inspector Ricky D. Dodd, J. M. Gipson, Jim Gipson, Carol Goolsbee, Earl and Estelle Hilton, Will and Louise Jeter, Nancy W. Kennedy, Chief Postal Inspector Lee R. Heath, retired Inspector Cal Hudson, Wayne and Martha Lamberth, Inspector Dwayne Martin, retired Inspector Dan Mihalko, Maxey Phillips, Inspector Lou Recchilongo, Lynna Kay Shuffield, Bill Wagoner, and finally, Camilla Felker and Verna Sipes of the McNairy County, Tennessee Historical Society.



U.S. Post Office Inspector Ernest M. Harkins

July 25, 1897–January 12, 1949

*By Retired Postal Inspector
Calvin W. Hudson*

A Post Office Inspector's Tale

January 12, 1949, began as a blustery winter day in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As was the family routine, 15-year-old Grace Harkins was dropped off at school by her father. For some reason, she did not follow her usual practice of kissing him goodbye. It was an omission she would regret for years to come.

Grace's father, Post Office Inspector Ernest Harkins, entered the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building at 5th and Harvey Streets in Oklahoma City at about 8:30 a.m. to pick up mail for the domicile. He failed to see the shadowy figure lurking in a nearby stairwell. As he stooped to retrieve mail from Post Office drawer 918, the figure approached the Inspector from behind. He fired one shot from a .22-caliber pistol into the back of Harkin's head, killing him instantly.

Joseph Donnelly, the gunman, threw his weapon into a trash can and sauntered up to the Post Office information window. He asked that the police be called because he had just shot a man. When the police arrived, they immediately ordered Donnelly to raise his arms, causing a machete to fall from his coat. He told the officers that, if the gun didn't work, he was going to kill Inspector Harkins with the machete.

Joseph Donnelly had long been a thorn in the side of the U.S. Postal Service. He became known to officials after writing numerous letters to the Postmaster General, the Chief Post Office Inspector, and other postal executives about two \$20 postal money orders he alleged were stolen from him. His most recent complaints were with Inspector Harkins, whom he claimed had done him wrong and on whom he took his vengeance.

Postal Inspector Clyde E. Zurmehly, Sr. led the investigation of Inspector

Harkin's murder. It was not yet a federal crime in 1949 to kill a federal law enforcement agent, so the case went to the U.S. Attorney's Office as a crime on a "government reservation"—which the Post Office was, being located on federally owned land. Donnelly's attorney attempted to enter a plea of insanity, but the plea was denied. Donnelly instead pled guilty to one charge of murder on a government reservation. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Although other law enforcement agencies assisted in the investigation, justice in this case was extremely swift due to the thorough and timely investigation by the Postal Inspection Service team, led by Inspector Zurmehly. On February 14, 1949, when Joseph Donnelly entered his plea of guilty for the murder of Inspector Harkins, it was a scant 32 days after the commission of the crime. He died in prison on July 31, 1971, at the age of 96.

Back to the Present

Following the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, I inquired if National Headquarters had a memorial commemorating Postal Inspection Service personnel killed in the line of duty. There was none. I then turned to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington, DC, of which I am a founding member, to see whether the names of Inspection Service employees killed in the line of duty were inscribed on the memorial. There were seven, including that of Inspector Harkins.

I decided to gather information about the seven who died, with the idea of erecting a fitting memorial at the National Headquarters building. I gained much valuable

information from the late retired Postal Inspector Ken Ratts, who was e-mail coordinator for the National Association of Retired Postal Inspectors (NARPI). Inspector Ron Pry of the Houston Division joined me in the effort.

Due in part to the untiring labor of Inspector Pry, a memorial plaque listing the names of Inspection Service employees killed in the line of duty came into being. A dedication ceremony, led by Chief Postal Inspector L. R. Heath was held in his offices on October 9, 2003. Surviving family members of those listed on the plaque were in attendance and were presented with replica plaques. The lone exception was the family of Post Office Inspector Harkins, who we were unable to locate.

Later that year, a woman by the name of Mrs. Grace Light phoned the Inspection Service Domicile in Oklahoma City. Her house had burned, and she wanted to make alternate arrangements for her mail delivery. She spoke with Diane Hunter, who was on a detail with the office. As their

About the author

Retired Postal Inspector Calvin W. Hudson was appointed as an Inspector on April 20, 1956, and assigned to the New York Division. He was detailed to the Boston Division in October 1962 to work on the investigation of the Plymouth mail robbery (see story in the February 1998 *Bulletin* magazine). Hudson returned to New York in March 1964 and was assigned to the Flushing, NY, Domicile. In June 1967, he was assigned to the Transit Service Depredation Team to work Mafia-related mail theft cases, resulting in the arrests of 115 "lesser lights" and hangers-on of the Mafia. In March 1971, he was detailed to work with Senator McClellan's Committee on Organized Crime, with late Assistant Chief Inspector Charles Miller. He was granted a transfer to Oklahoma City in July 1971, where he was a major crimes coordinator until his retirement on February 28, 1977.



conversation was winding down, Mrs. Light remarked that her father, Ernest Harkins, had been a Postal Inspector and that she would have loved to have followed in his footsteps and become the first female Postal Inspector. When Diane learned that Mrs. Light was the daughter of Inspector Harkins, she told her that the Inspection Service had been trying to locate members of Harkin's family. She invited Grace Light to visit the domicile and meet the Postal Inspectors and support personnel there. Mrs. Light appreciated the invitation, but was never able to make the visit.

Diane Hunter called Inspector Ron Pry in February 2004 on an unrelated matter. During their conversation, Inspector Pry happened to ask if she was familiar with the Harkins case. She told the Inspector that she had spoken with Grace Light, the Inspector's daughter, a year earlier. Inspector Pry informed the Chief Inspector's Office that Harkin's daughter had been located. A memorial plaque was then created and forwarded to Ft. Worth Division Inspector in Charge Daniel Cortez for presentation to Grace Light.

Oklahoma City Domicile personnel coordinated a formal presentation ceremony and, on March 17, 2005, presented Grace Light with the plaque honoring her father. Mrs. Light was accompanied by her daughter, grandchildren, and other family members, who all expressed gratitude for recognition of the Inspector's sacrifice.

At a reception following the ceremony, Inspector Pry and other employees gave a presentation that included the story of Inspector Harkin's death. I was also present, as were retired Inspectors Clyde Zurmehly, Jr.—whose father had headed the murder investigation—Jack Bounds, Wallace Pugsley, and Hal Gibson.

So ended the long search for the surviving family members of Inspection Service personnel killed in the line of duty. Inspector Harkin's name is now inscribed not only on the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, but also on a memorial plaque at National Headquarters, and preserved for his family on the plaque presented to Grace Light.

May Post Office Inspector Ernest Harkins rest in peace.

A Letter from the New President of NARPI, Mike Ryan

A slate of new national officers for NARPI (the National Association of Retired Postal Inspectors) was sworn in during a combined National and Western Region Reunion in San Diego in late September 2005. Interestingly, three out of four of the officers held a chapter office at the time they were sworn in.

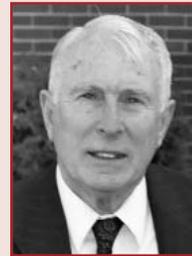
Former Vice President of the NorCal Chapter Bob Cooper is our new National Vice President. Jay Skidmore, Vice President of the NY/NJ Metro Chapter, is our new National Secretary, and Bob Blackburn, Secretary/Treasurer of the Georgia Chapter, is now our National Treasurer. I (Mike Ryan) advanced from the office of National Vice President to National President. No doubt the three new national officers are now or soon will be actively (if not frantically) searching for a fellow chapter member to assume their responsibilities pending their chapter's next scheduled election.

While I have no statistics to support it, I believe our current roster of national officers is (excluding me) the youngest and most computer-literate group of national officers NARPI has ever had. We're confident that this youth factor, coupled with the addition of a computer guru in the person of Tom Buggie (our newly appointed National Electronic Communications Coordinator) will enable NARPI to advance to the next level in communications technology. That advancement will include, but not be limited to, the way in which we transmit information to members, the overall functionality of our Web site (www.narpi.org), and the format and accessibility of our quarterly newsletter, *NARPI News*.

I, for one, am excited about the possibilities brought to the table by our new NECC and national officers. I have no doubt my two-year term as President of NARPI will witness groundbreaking developments that will measurably strengthen NARPI and help ensure the long-term viability of this truly exceptional association.

All the best,
M.W. "Mike" Ryan

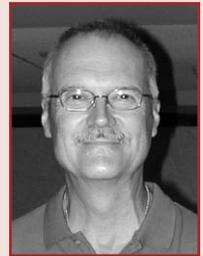
p.s. It may interest Postal Inspection Service employees to know that eligibility to join NARPI has been expanded. In addition to retired Postal Inspectors, any employee at an Inspection Service domicile or division, or at National Headquarters, who retired from an administrative or staff position (or from the U.S. Postal Service) or served in such a position for at least five years under honorable circumstances is eligible for associate membership.



**NARPI National
President
Mike Ryan**



**NARPI National
Vice President
Bob Cooper**



**NARPI National
Secretary
Jay Skidmore**

Inspectors Lisa Holman and John Johnson Recipients of 2005 Awards from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

U.S. Postal Inspector Lisa Holman of the Charlotte Division received an award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children during a ceremony held on May 25, 2005, in Washington, DC. Working with Detective Joanna Morton of the Hickory Police Department and Special Agent Lori Shank of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Inspector Holman was honored for her work uncovering a child-sex and pornography ring in late 2003. Ringleader Marvin Witherspoon and others sexually abused untold numbers of young children, manufactured child pornography, and trafficked in child pornography by mail for decades. Inspector Holman and her colleagues seized evidence in North Carolina and Florida, reviewed hundreds of videos, conducted scores of interviews,



(l to r) Postal Inspector Lisa Holman, Hickory Police Detective Joanna Morton, and NC State Bureau of Investigation Special Agents Ginger Hutchinson and Lori Shank were personally thanked by President George W. Bush during their White House visit.

and coordinated the relocation of several child victims. As a result of the investigation, Witherspoon was sentenced to 32 years in prison on state charges and 10 years on federal charges. Other ring members received terms of up to 10 years in prison.

Inspector Holman and her colleagues were later invited to meet with President George W. Bush at the White House as a personal “thank you” for their work.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service’s New Jersey/Caribbean

Post Office Renamed for Father of Postal Police Captain Gregory Brown

Postal Police Captain Gregory Brown of the Houston Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, attended a renaming ceremony on May 1, 2004, for the Nyack Post Office, located on South Broadway in Nyack, New York.

Captain Brown’s father, Waverly

Gregory Brown, whose father Waverly Brown was killed during the Brinks robbery in 1981, listens to the ceremony re-naming the Nyack

Post Office for the victims of the Brinks robbery, Edward O’Grady, Waverly Brown, and Peter Paige on May 1, 2004. Gregory Brown grew up in Nyack and is now a member of the Postal Police in Houston. (Kathy Gardner/*The Journal News*)



“Chipper” Brown, was one of three men gunned down during a robbery on October 20, 1981, committed by members of the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground. The gang stole \$1.6 million from a Brinks armored car while guards were making a pickup from a nearby bank.

The Post Office now bears the names of Edward O’Grady, Waverly Brown, and Peter Paige. Brown and O’Grady were police officers, and Paige was a Brinks armored-truck guard. The legislation was sponsored by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Representative Eliot Engel (D-Bronx), and

was approved by the House of Representatives on October 20, 2003, the 22nd anniversary of the robbery.

Schumer applauded the community for keeping the tragedy in its heart and thanked the families of the three men. “We remember their families walk with a hole in their hearts every day because of the loss,” Schumer said. “Today, nine children are the best testament to the character of Ed, Peter, and Waverly. And we will never forget what they did for us.”

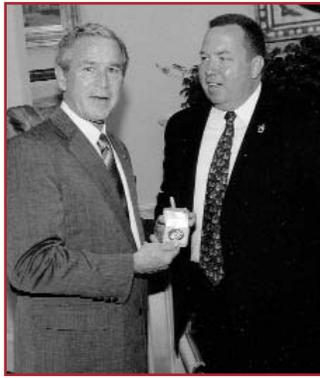
Captain Gregory Brown and his sister, Karen Harrington, added, “We’re very happy this honor was bestowed upon our father and two other officers. We are very thankful for the people of Rockland for this celebration of our father’s life.”

The robbers used a U-Haul truck as a getaway vehicle. When they were stopped at a roadblock at the New York State Thruway, the robbers jumped out of the van and shot O’Grady and Brown, and wounded another officer.

From left, Josephine Paige, Gregory Brown, Sen. Charles Schumer, Congressman Eliot Engel, and Diane O’Grady on May 1, 2004, unveil the plaque stating that Congress has designated the Nyack post office be renamed in honor of the victims of the Brinks robbery in 1981. The victims were Edward O’Grady, Waverly Brown, and Peter Paige. (Kathy Gardner/*The Journal News*)

Division was recognized for its work as part of the multi-agency “Regpay” investigation. Regpay referred to a company that processed credit card information for child pornography Web sites. By tracking payment data, investigators identified thousands of child pornography subscribers around the world. Operation Falcon was formed to track and dismantle this global child porn network. Falcon included Postal Inspectors, agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Internal Revenue Service agents. In all, investigators arrested 1,300 child pornography suspects.

U.S. Postal Inspector John J. Johnson and other members of the Falcon Task Force received an award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on May 25, 2005, and were then invited to the White House to meet with President George W. Bush, who thanked them personally for their work. Inspector Johnson presented the President with a Challenge Coin during the visit.



Postal Inspector John Johnson presented the Chief Postal Inspector's Challenge Coin to President George W. Bush during his White House visit.

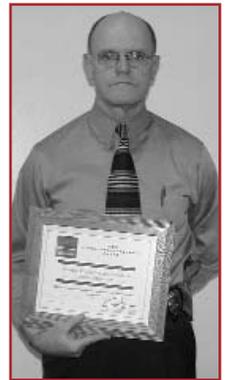
Postal Inspector Thomas K. Clinton of the Pittsburgh Division Receives ‘The Wired Cops’ Award

U.S. Postal Inspector Thomas K. Clinton of the Pittsburgh Division was honored with The Wired Cops Award for his exceptional work in the investigation and prosecution of Scott Tyree, a 38-year-old child predator.

The award was presented by The Wired Safety Group at its Fifth Annual Wired Kids Summit and Awards Luncheon held on Capitol Hill on May 25, 2005. Wired Safety is the largest online child safety and help group in the world, operating through thousands of volunteers in 76 countries. More than 200 invited guests participated in the event, and U.S. Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) spoke about the critical need to keep children safe from online predators and to protect them from exploitation.

Inspector Clinton was recognized, with FBI agent Denise Valentine, for his investigation of a 13-year-old Pittsburgh girl, who was lured from her home by Scott Tyree after meeting him in an online chatroom. Tyree took her to Herndon, VA, and kept her chained in a dungeon in his basement for three days. Inspector Clinton and his FBI colleague recovered the girl and arrested her abductor. Tyree was successfully prosecuted and, on May 20, 2005, sentenced to 20 years in federal prison.

Inspector Clinton and Agent Valentine-Holtz conducted the investigation as members of the Western Pennsylvania Crimes Against Children Task Force. The victim is now an active member of The Wired Safety Group and speaks of her own past experience to help other children avoid becoming victims.



Postal Inspector Thomas K. Clinton

Want To Be a U.S. Postal Inspector? Get Online.

In what is being termed an amazing coincidence, it has been noted that a number of important events in American history all took place on August 1. Just look at the facts:

August 1, 1790: The first U.S. Census was completed.

August 1, 1876: Colorado becomes the 38th state.

August 1, 1958: A First-Class U.S. postage stamp goes up to four cents.

August 1, 1981: MTV begins broadcasting.

August 1, 2005: The U.S. Postal Inspection Service accepts its first online application.

According to the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, federal agencies are increasingly turning to information technology to help them recruit and select employ-

ees. Many are now using automated hiring systems to announce jobs, receive applications, and identify promising candidates.

Now the Postal Inspection Service has joined the vanguard. Its Human Resource Performance Group opened the application process for Postal Inspectors in August 2005—the first activity in this area since June 2004. The key difference from prior years was that the 13-day open period showcased a newly designed, automated process. Interested candidates could complete their entire application online at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Internet Web site, at www.usps.com/postal-inspectors.



From August 1 through 13, 5,935 visitors to the Web site applied online to become Postal Inspectors. This is second only to the 7,862 applications received during the entire year of 2003, when the process was completed manually. It's great positive feedback for the Postal Inspection Service.

Booked Up With Postal Inspectors

Postal Inspector Tripp C. Brinkley is an avid reader and collector of U.S. Postal Inspection Service books and memorabilia. He agreed to share a “short” list of books he has come across that were written by, for, and about our agency—and related topics.

Adsit, Byron D, *Uncle Sam's Bad Boys or, Leaves From the Diary of a Post Office Inspector*, 1888.

Baarslag, Karl, *Robbery by Mail: The Story of the U.S. Postal Inspectors*, 1938.

Bailey, F. Lee, *The Defense Never Rests*, 1972. Includes a chapter on the Plymouth Mail Robbery, but is critical of the Postal Inspection Service's investigation.

Bailey, F. Lee, *For the Defense*, 1975. Also includes a chapter on the Plymouth Mail Robbery—and is also critical of the Inspection Service's investigation.

Broun, Heywood and Leech, Margaret, *Anthony Comstock*, 1927.

Cartwright, F.C., *G-Men of the GPO*, circa 1930. British book about British Postal Inspectors.

Catterall, Lee, *The Great Dali Art Fraud*. International mail fraud case from the 1980s.

Clifton, Robert, *Murder by Mail, "and other postal investigations,"* 1979. The author was a U.S. Postal Inspector.

Comstock, Anthony, *Traps for the Young*, 1883, republished in 1967. The author was a Post Office Inspector, and the book is mostly about mail fraud and obscenity.

Comstock, Anthony, *Frauds Exposed*, 1880. The author was a Post Office Inspector. The book is 576 pages and features beautiful binding and illustrations.

Crump, Irving, *The Boys' Book of the U.S. Mails*, 1926. Several chapters highlight the work of Postal Inspectors in the areas of mail theft, train robberies, and various heroic exploits.

Cushing, Marshall, *The Story of Our Post Office: The Greatest Government Department in All Its Phases*, 1893. The book is 1,034 pages long and includes more than 450 photos and engravings, with several chapters devoted to Postal Inspectors.

DeMott, John B., *Yankee Postal*

Inspector, 1982. The author was a U.S. Postal Inspector. This paperback is the autobiography of a Boston Postal Inspector in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s.

Denniston, Elinore, *America's Silent Investigators*, 1964. “The Story of the Postal Inspectors who Protect the United States Mail.”

Disney, Doris Miles, *Black Mail*, 1960.

Disney, Doris Miles, *Mrs. Meeker's Money*, 1960.

Disney, Doris Miles, *Unappointed Rounds*, 1956.

Elliott, Carter, *Riding a Blue Horse*, 2003. A novel about a young Postal Inspector and a state trooper who investigate a child exploitation case.

Fay, S., Chester, Lewis and Lin-klater, M., *Hoax*, 1972.

Greenburg, Martin, *Murder Most Postal: Homicidal Tales that Deliver a Message*.

Gronning, Sam and Kammen, Robert, *One Bloody Sunday*. This novel is about “an ex-cop and Vietnam Vet-turned-Postal Inspector who teams with an Ojibwe Indian detective against an embezzler, the Mafia, and kidnapers in a confrontation with Middle Eastern students bent on a terrorist act that will set this country on its collective ear!”

Holbrook, J., *Ten Years Among the Mail Bags*, 1855, also available in 1856 and 1888 editions. “Notes from the Diary of a Special Agent of the Post Office Department.” The author was a U.S. Postal Inspector.

Jeffers, H. Paul, *Gentleman Gerald*, 1995. “The Crimes and Times of Gerald Chapman, America's First ‘Public Enemy No. 1.’” The story of a 1920s mail truck robbery.

Kahn, E. J. Jr., *Fraud*, “The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and some of the fools and knaves it has known,” 1973.

Kelland, Clarence Budington, *The Great Mail Robbery*, 1950.

Kenyon, W.A., *Bill Kenyon of the Postal Inspectors and Army Postal Service*, 1960. The autobiography of a Postal Inspector who writes about some of his interesting and unusual assignments.

Lowe, Jonathon, *Postmarked for Death*, 1995. A novel featuring a Postal Inspector, written by a postal clerk in Tucson, Arizona. This one has it all: A lonely and embittered LSM clerk slips into madness and bombings, plus a romance between a rookie Inspector and his Inspector in Charge.

Makris, John N., *The Silent Investigators*, 1959. “The Great Untold Story of the Postal Inspection Service.”

McGrady, Sean, *Dead Letters, Town Without a ZIP, and Sealed With a Kiss*. Postal Inspector novel.

Norfleet, J. Frank, *Norfleet*, 1924. A mail fraud case in Sugarland, Texas, featuring a four-year, 30,000-mile chase after con artists.

Parker, David B., *A Chautauqua Boy in '61 and Afterward*, 1912. This biography by a former Chief Post Office Inspector includes a Civil War history and chapters on his various government jobs.

Petschel, H.K., *Spurious Stamps: A History of U.S. Postal Counterfeits*, 1997. The author was a Postal Inspector, and the story is a compilation of cases involving stamp counterfeits and mail fraud.

Phinazee, John E. and Weaver, Larry G., *Moments in Time: True Stories of the United States Postal Inspectors*, 2003. The authors were Postal Inspectors in the Atlanta area.

Rayner, Richard, *Drake's Fortune*. A fraud case set in the 1920s and '30s.

Rice, Robert, *The Nature of Midnight* (Forge Publishing), 2003. Novel of an Internal Affairs Inspector on a murder case in Montana, in a story related to the 1915 sinking of the *Lusitania*.

Richards, Clay, *Death of an Angel*, 1890s. A novel about a Post Office Inspector investigating a mail bomb in New York.

Richards, Clay, *Who Steals My Name*, 1965.

Rosenfeld, Arthur, *Diamond Eye* (Forge Publishing), 2001. A Postal Inspector solves a child pornography case in Los Angeles.

Stice, James Lincoln, *Free Enterprise*, 1945. The author, who was a Postal Inspector, wrote this collection of cases that were originally published in a local newspaper. Scarce but interesting accounts of Inspectors' experience in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and other areas from the 1890s to early 1900s.

Sturholm, Larry and Howard, John, *All for Nothing: The True Story of the Last Great American Train Robbery*, 1976. The story of the DeAutremont brothers' robbery.

Tidyman, Ernest, *Big Bucks*, 1982. The story of the Plymouth mail robbery.

Van Cise, P.S., *Fighting the Underworld*, 1936. The Bunco case, as written by a Denver District Attorney.

Warren Commission Report: *The Assassination of President Kennedy*. The testimony and details of Postal Inspector Harry D. Holmes' involvement in the investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald, and the interview he conducted with him minutes before Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby.

Webb, Martha G., *Darling Corey's Dead*, 1984. A Postal Inspection Service crime novel set in Texas.

Winne, Mark, *Priority Mail*, 1995. The investigation and trial of a mail bomber.

Woodward, P.H., *The Secret Service of the Post Office Department*, 1886 (modern reprint available). The author was a Chief Special Agent. Several chapters appeared under the title, “Sharretts the Detective, Being a Record of Famous Mail Robberies,” as a part of *Warne's Detective Stories*.



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